

these sisters both wear  
old tennis shoes on red feet  
decaying from bad  
circulation or bad wine  
and their dresses  
are always the same  
one sister wears a black hat  
but they hold out  
and hold out  
and talk of when the Blvd.  
was lined with houses more  
elegant than their own  
and of the hardwood floors  
in their house still  
being in good condition

I see

before the A-bomb hits  
Los Angeles there will be  
war, much fighting  
and so many hurt  
that flying in the air  
will be a slow moving  
blimp-like hospital  
and helicopters will  
bring the wounded  
to this flying aid-station  
quickly from the battlefield  
and this hospital  
marked with a large red cross  
will be flying over the city  
when the A-bomb hits and  
explodes billowing its  
deadly barrel of smoke upward  
only the lucky  
leaving their possessions  
might flee fast enough  
to save themselves

when these lazy  
days of laying  
and loving and talking  
with you are over  
I'll remember  
the way you  
tilted your head  
when you teased me  
the way you said

"let's take five"  
the curl of your hair  
the padding of your hands  
the beautiful curve  
of your mouth  
and the long hours  
of making gentle love  
our bodies locked  
I'll remember you  
bringing me coffee  
in bed among the  
books and papers  
then coming to bed wet  
a steaming red lobster  
after a too hot bath  
the way you  
could make me laugh  
of knowing your face  
and body so well  
and sleeping so close  
turning as one  
this and so much  
more I will remember  
the days passing too fast  
and how we lavishly used  
hours and days and weeks  
just being together

-- Linda King

Los Angeles CA

#### WHERE DO WE GET ALL THESE BURDENS?

Well, you go to the House of Burdens  
and you say  
I'll take that one, and that one,  
and that one, because they all  
look good to you;  
and then the Burden Salesman says,  
Okay ... they're yours ...

and you have to put them  
all on your shoulders and try  
to carry them all in one load  
because you were greedy  
and they are unreturnable.